SOUVENIR BOOK

in honor of

The Right Reverend Monsignor Francis M. Juras

on the occasion of his

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

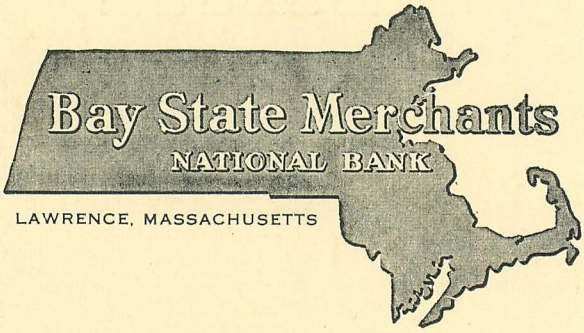
✠

1922 in the Priesthood 1962

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO

The Right Reverend

Monsignor Francis M. Juras



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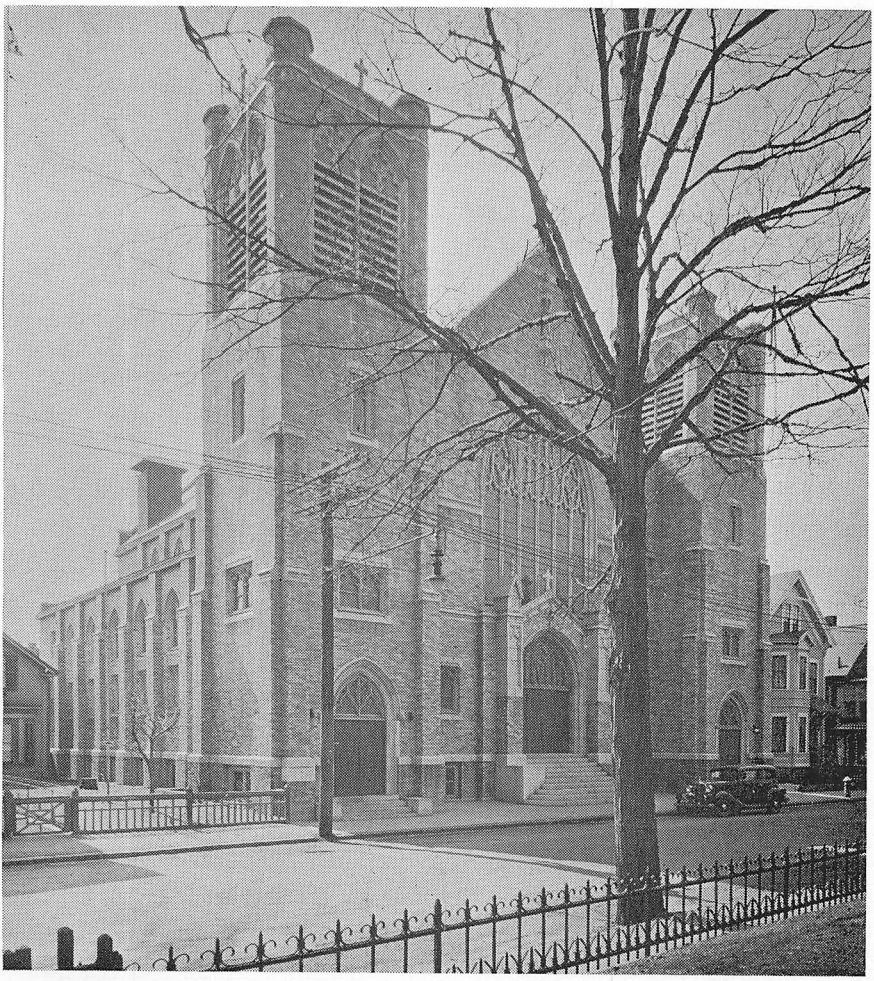

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May 8, 1962

My dear Monsignor:

Recalling the fact that I will be forty-one years ordained on the twenty-sixth of May and that you are only a year behind me and will, thereby be celebrating your fortieth anniversary I decided to take time out to send you this letter of congratulations.

I don't know of any priest in this diocese who has been a more worthy representative of Christ, the Lord, than yourself. For four decades in the priesthood you have worked and prayed, studied and meditated on ways and means by which you could spread the Kingdom of God upon this earth.

I shall never forget when I invited the Sisters of Jesus Crucified to locate the Mother House and Novitiate in the Archdiocese of Boston, that you were the one who encouraged me and supported me. Today this Community of very extraordinary Nuns have made a great name for themselves in the Archdiocese. It is all due to your guidance and direction over their early years. Furthermore, in the days when they had little or nothing in the way of worldly goods you were the one who stood behind them, helped them and, indeed, inspired them. You should be known as the second founder of their Community.

To name all the other works with which I have been identified and which you have helped would take page after page of gratitude and appreciation. Suffice for me to say that I have never been without

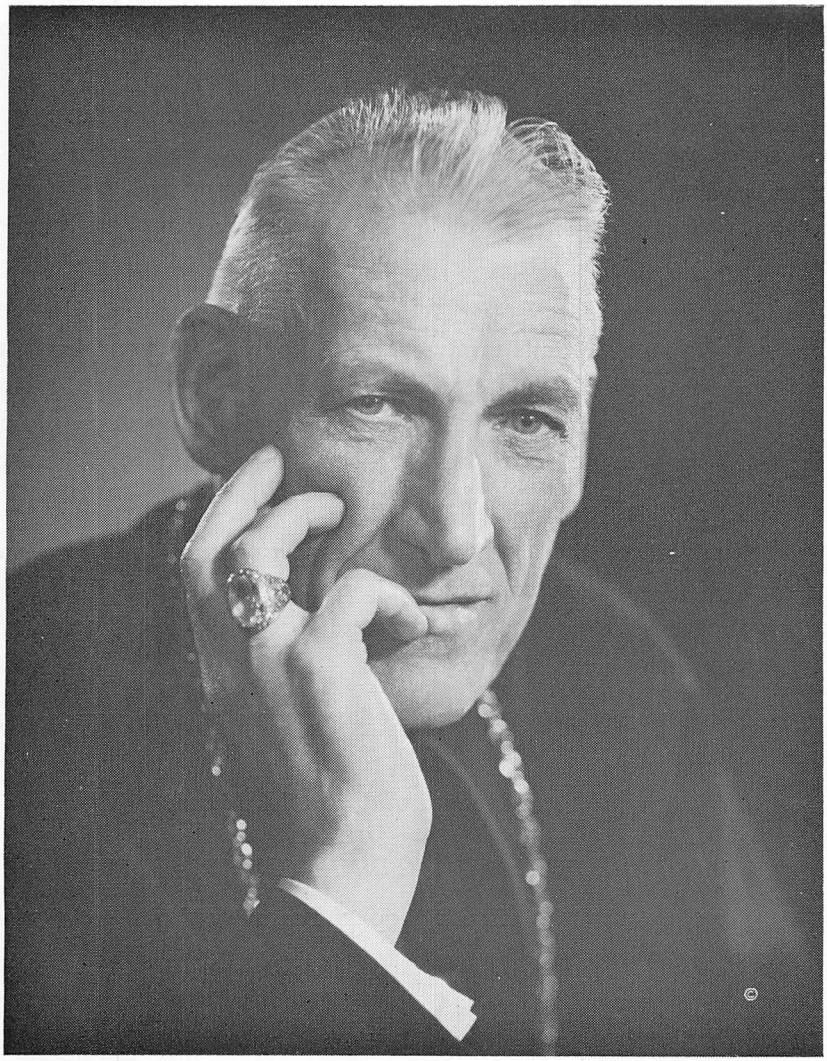

Photo by Bachrach

His Eminence

Richard Cardinal Cushing, D. D.

Archbishop of Boston

need for help and at all times you were willing to aid me in financing a very extensive spiritual, educational, missionary and charitable program.

What you have done for me you have done many times over for your parishioners. Whenever I visited your parish I could tell by the enthusiasm of the people that like all of us, they had great affection for you and esteemed you as the ideal good shepherd of their souls.

I could find many other reasons to praise you and congratulate you on your fortieth anniversary. Among them your humility, your charity, your priestliness, your love of God and neighbor, but it is not what I think of you that counts; it is what God knows about you and I am sure He knows only the very, very best that He expects from an ideal priest.

Happy I am, therefore, to elbow my way through your many, many, friends who are congratulating you on your fortieth anniversary and assuring you of my blessings and good wishes that the Lord may spare us for your Fiftieth.

With love and prayerful mementos to you and all your parishioners, I am

Your devoted and grateful friend,

RICHARD CARDINAL CUSHING

Archbishop of Boston

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Francis M. Juras
St. Francis Parish
Lawrence, Massachusetts

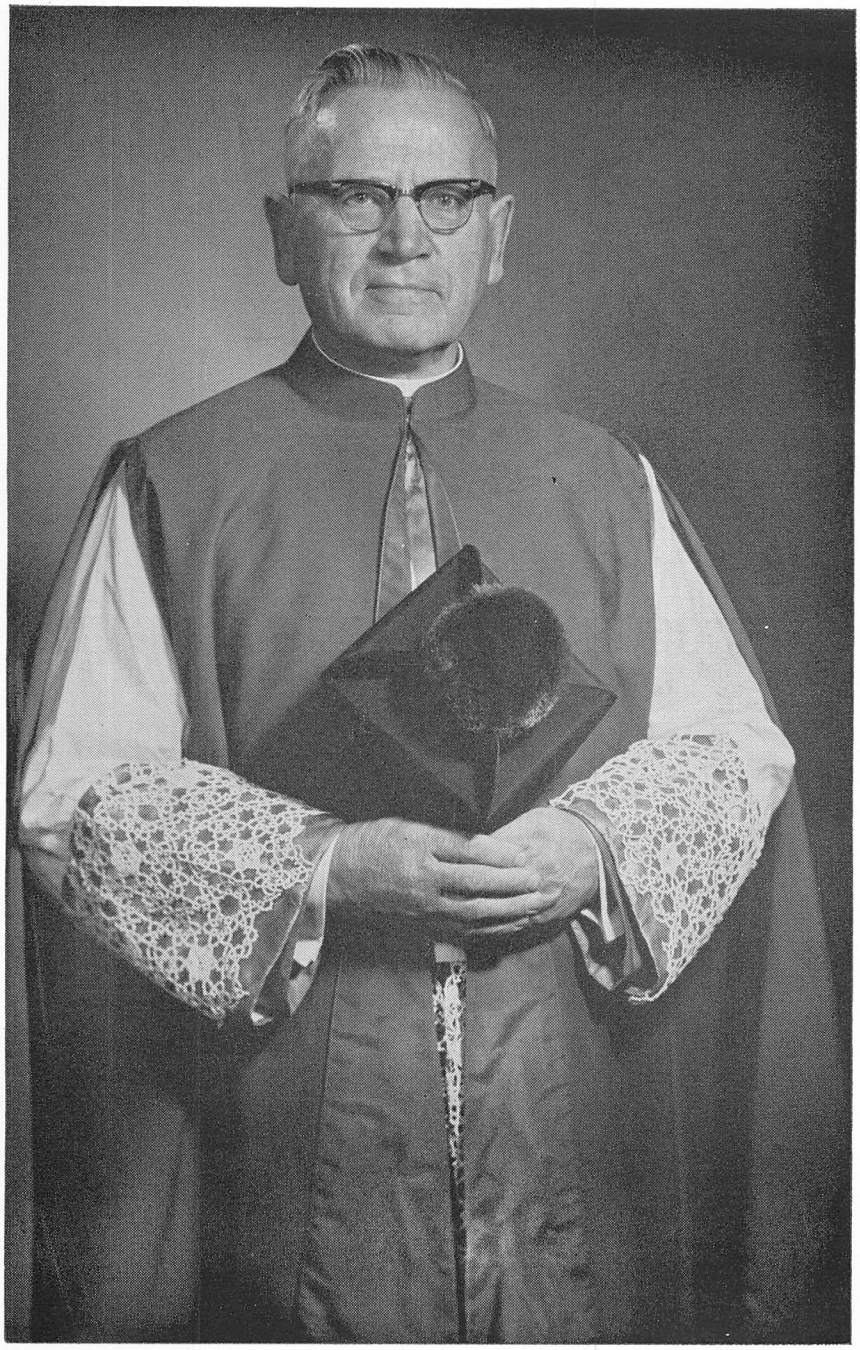

Photo by Bachrach

Right Reverend Monsignor Francis M. Juras

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Jeigu Lawrenco miestas yra plačiai žinomas Amerikos lietuvių tarpe, tai tiktai dėl Prelato Pranciškaus Juro šviesios asmenybės ir jo atliktųjų darbų.

Minint Prel. Pr. Juro keturiasdešimt metų kunigystės sukaktį, pravartu prisiminti nors ir labai trumpai jo nueitą kelią ir iškelti vieną bei kitą esmingesnį jo gyvenimo bruožą ir atliktąjį darbą.

Prel. Pr. Juras yra gimęs lietuviškame kaime tuo laiku, kai pati Lietuva dar buvo caristinės Rusijos priespaudoj. Nors Prelato tėveliai buvo pavyzdingi ūkininkai, bet turėdami devynis vaikus, negalėjo pajėgti anais laikais leisti Pranuką į mokslus. Iš pat mažens jis turėjo padėti tėvams palengvinti sunkią gausios šeimos išlaikymo naštą. Vasarą turėjo dirbti įvairius ūkio darbus, o žiemą eiti į pradžios mokyklą, kuri buvo tolokai nuo gimtojo kaimo.

Baigęs pradžios mokyklą, Pranukas persikėlė į Šiaulių miestą, kur susiradęs vienoje krautuvėje darbo, pradėjo dirbti. Bet darbas krautuvėje jo nepatenkino. Jojo svajonė buvo siekti mokslo ir eiti savo vyriausiojo brolio An-

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tano pėdomis, kuris buvo jau bebaigiąs Kunigų Seminariją ir sulaukęs dijakono šventimų, bet džiovos pakirstas mirė. Dėl to laisvu nuo darbo laiku Pranukas pradėjo mokytis privačiai. Net tėvams nežinant, jis sekmingai išlaikė egzaminus į Šiaulių progimnaziją. Nors ir prie sunkių materialinių sąlygų, tėvams šiek tiek pagelbstint, Pranciškus baigė progimnaziją.

Nematydamas palankių perspektyvų savo nusistatytam tikslui pasiekti, Pranciškus 1912 atvyko į Ameriką. Bet ir čia, Amerikoj, neturint nei giminių nei pažįstamų, gyvenimas nebuvo lengvas. Sunkus ir ilgas darbas, studijavimas Šv. Karolio Kolegijoj pakirto jauno ir energingo Pranciškaus sveikatą: jis susirgo džiova. Teko pusę metų gydytis sanatorijoje. Išėjęs iš jos sunkesnio darbo nebegalėjo dirbti.

Bet Dievo Apvaizda jo neapleido sunkioj ir kritiškoj jo gyvenimo valandoj. Gerų žmonių pagalba jam pavyko persikelti į Chicagą ir įstoti į Šv. Vincento Pauliečio Universitetą. Pastudijavęs metus universitete, 1917 metais buvo priimtas į Kenrick Kunigų Seminariją St. Louis, Mo., kur studijavo keturis metus. 1921 metais klierikas Pr. Juras persikėlė į Šv. Jono Kunigų Seminariją Brightone, Mass. Ilgai svajotas tikslas buvo pasiektas, kai 1922 metų birželio 22 dieną Bostono kardinolas O'Connell dijakoną Pr. Jurą vienui vieną Šv. Kryžiaus katedroje įšventino į kunigus.

Pirmoji parapija, kurion kun. Pr. Juras buvo paskirtas vikaru, buvo Lawrence, Mass., kurioje klebonu buvo dabartinis Prelatas Pr. Virmauskis. Penkeris metus išbuvęs vikaru Lawrence, kun. Pr. Juras buvo iškeltas 1927 metais klebonu į Lowellį. Po dviejų metų jis vėl buvo perkeltas klebonu į Lawrencą.

Taigi Lawrenco lietuvių Šv. Pranciškaus parapija buvo pirmoji vieta, kur kun. Pr. Juras pradėjo savo kunigo darbą ir kur dabar jau trisdešimt aštuoneri metai kai tebedirba.

Būdamas klebonu, kun. Pr. Juras pabaigė įrengti bažnyčią, išmokėjo visas skolas ir nupirko parapijai namą.

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Šventasis Sostas, įvertindamas kun. Pr. Juro didžiulius nuopelnus, suteikė jam 1951 metais prelato titulą.

Prel. Pr. Juro veikla nesiribojo vien tik parapija, bet siekė visą Ameriką. Jo atliktieji darbai kaip kunigo, visuomenininko, kultūrininko, knygų leidėjo ir labdario yra tokie dideli ir reikšmingi, kad reikėtų gerokos knygos norint juos visus aprašyti. Šio straipsnio apimtis teleidžia tik trumpai paminėti vieną kitą Prel. Pr. Juro atliktą darbą.

Dar Lietuvoje būdamas, jis įsitraukė į aktyvią veiklą Šv. Juozapo, blaivininkų ir ateitininkų draugijose.

Atvykus į Ameriką, visuomeninio veikimo plotai jaunam, energingam ir idealistiškai nusiteikusiam jaunuoliui pasidarė dar didesni. Vyčių organizavimas, lietuviškiems laikraščiams medžiagos telkimas, lietuvių kalbos mokymas, paskaitų rengimas ir lietuviškų kolonijų lankymas buvo tos sritys, kur Pr. Juras kaip studentas ir klierikas aktyviausiai ir sekmingiausiai pasireiškė.

Prel. Pr. Juras aktyviai remia kiekvieną lietuvišką veiklą, kuri remiasi ir vadovaujasi katalikybės ir tautybės principais. Dėl to Prelato Pr. Juro vardas žinomas visoje Amerikoje. Ilgą laiką dirbo ALRK Darbininkų Sąjungoje, eidamas centro valdybos pirmininko ir Darbininko generalinio vedėjo pareigas. Buvo "Motinėlės" sekretoriumi ir iždo globėju. Kunigų Vienybės sekretoriumi ir pirmininku per daugelį metų. Be to, yra buvęs Katalikų Federacijos iždininku ir daugelį metų dirbo Centro Valdyboje, Ateitininkų Sendraugių Sąjungos dvasios vadu. Dabartiniu laiku Prel. Pr. Juras daugelyje organizacijų eina svarbias ir atsakingas pareigas.

Būdamas giliu ir nuoširdžiu patrijotu, Prel. Pr. Juras niekados neužmiršo savo tėvynės Lietuvos. Ne tik žodžiu ir raštu yra gynęs jos reikalus, bet ir konkrečiais darbais yra parodęs jai savo meilę. Pranciškonams Kretingoje pastatė naujokyno namus ir įkūrė spaustuvę. Seselėms Širdietėms nupirko namus Šiauliuose. Daugelis katalikiš-

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kų institucijų Lietuvoje yra susilaukusios jo paramos. Prel. Pr. Juro dėka keturi jo seserėnai yra baigę aukštuosius mokslus Lietuvoje.

Po antrojo pasaulinio karo Prel. Pr. Juras daug rūpesčio ir geros širdies yra parodęs lietuviams, pabėgusiems nuo komunistinio siaubo ir atsidūrusiems Vokietijoje. Daugelį iš jų jis ne tik atsikvietė į Ameriką, bet jais rūpinosi, šelpė ir juos globojo.

Daug energijos ir darbo Prel. Pr. Juras yra padėjęs lietuvių kultūrinei veiklai. Jo iniciatyva buvo įkurtas Lietuvių Kultūros Institutas ir Alkos Muziejus. Jo pastangomis buvo pradėta leisti vaikų laikraštėlis "Eglutė".

Giliai įvertindamas spaudos reikšmę lietuvių gyvenime, Prel. Pr. Juras yra atidavęs jai didžiulę duoklę. Amerikoje yra įkūręs Darbininko ir Nek. Pr. M. Marijos Seselėms Putname spaustuves. Ne tik pats yra parašęs ir išleidęs keletą savo knygų, bet kaip lietuvių spaudos mecenatas Prel. Pr. Juras yra išleidęs virš keturiasdešimt įvairaus turinio geriausių mūsų rašytojų knygų. Jos visos puikiausiai reprezentuoja lietuvių dvasinės kultūros lygį. Tuo savo kilniu žygiu Prel. Pr. Juras suteikė paramą mūsų rašytojams ir kultūrininkams. Bendrai kiekvienas vertingas ir pozityvus lietuviškas darbas bei vertinga iniciatyva yra susilaukę Prelato pritarimo ir paramos.

Minint Prel. Pr. Juro keturiasdešimt metų kunigystės sukaktį, yra visų lietuvių pareiga ne tik jį prisiminti, bet ir pagerbti jį kaip kunigą, dirbantį žmonių sielų gerovei per tiek daugelį metų ir kaip vieną iš žymiausių lietuvių asmenybių, kurio atliktais darbais gėrisi ir didžiuojasi visi lietuviai, kuriems yra brangios religinės, tautinės ir kultūrinės vertybės.

Prelato pareiškimu, žmogus, sulaukęs septyniasdešimt metų, gyvena iš Dievo paimtu laiku. Reikia tikėtis, jeigu Dievo Apvaizda lydėjo jį per septyniasdešimt metų, lydės ir toliau, duodama jam stiprybės, energijos ir ištvermės dideliems ir kilniems darbams, kuriems Ji Prelatą yra pašaukusi.

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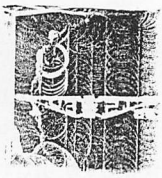

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OUR BELOVED MONSIGNOR

June 18, 1962 marks the fortieth Ordination anniversary of the Right Reverend Monsignor Francis Michael Juras, pastor of Saint Francis Lithuanian parish, Lawrence, Massachusetts since 1929. Under his able leadership, our parish has shown remarkable growth the past thirty-three years.

Monsignor Francis M. Juras was born in Šiauliai, Lithuania on June 16, 1891. He secured his early education in his native country. In 1912 he sailed for America desiring to labor for souls among the many who came here from his native land.

The Juras family was generously blessed with religious vocations. Three of Monsignor's sisters are members of teaching orders. His brother Anthony was ordained a deacon when God called him out of this world.

Here in the United States Monsignor Francis Juras studied at St. Charles College in Catensville, Maryland and St. Vincent dePaul University in Chicago. Then he entered Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri where he studied philosophy and theology for four years. He completed his studies at Saint John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts. His Eminence William Cardinal O'Connell, ordained Francis Michael Juras a priest of God at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston on the feast of Corpus Christi, June 18, 1922.

Father Francis M. Juras first assignment was at St. Francis Church in Lawrence as an assistant to Father Francis Virmauskis. He was placed in charge of St. Joseph's parish in Lowell in the year 1927. Two years later he returned to St. Francis Church as pastor and was instrumental in completing the upper part of the Church by 1931. Here our beloved pastor has labored zealously for 38 years.

During his long pastorate, Monsignor Juras has encouraged various parish societies to function as true religious organizations to draw all parishioners together in the knowledge and love of God.

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Among them we find the men's Holy Name Society, the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers, Young Ladies Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Third Order of St. Francis, the League of the Sacred Heart, St. Elizabeth's Benevolent Society, the Knights of Lithuania, and the Catholic Youth Organization.

Another milestone in the history of St. Francis parish was reached on August 12, 1956 when Monsignor Juras blessed the newly acquired St. Francis parochial school at Cross and Franklin Streets. The plaque on the brick school building reads: "For the greater honor and glory of God. General William Donovan School. Erected in 1852. Remodelled in 1916, transformed into St. Francis R. C. Parish School May 29, 1956. Dedicated August 12, 1956 by Msgr. Francis M. Juras, Pastor. Let the little children come to me for of such is the kingdom of heaven." The school has been completely modernized, including new desks and chairs, flooring and overhead lights. Plans are underway to build an addition to the school to provide a larger cafeteria and school auditorium. The pastor is looking ahead to the expanded needs of the growing parish families.

St. Francis Convent, adjacent to our parochial school, was established by our pastor in 1956 to provide residence for the teaching Sisters of Jesus Crucified from Brockton, Massachusetts, who have been teaching grade school children in this Archdiocese since 1926. The prayers and labors of these consecrated and devoted women are many. They have brought an enriched spiritual fervor and devotion into our homes by way of the grade school children under their care.

Monsignor Juras has figured prominently in the charitable works in our community. He is ever mindful of the spiritual needs of God's children; both in the parish and outside the parish. He is a member of the committee that worked hard to establish Bon Secours Hospital in Methuen, board member of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation of America, President of the Lithuanian American Priests' League and has supported the Lithuanian College in Rome, Italy for the training of future priests.

The younger diocesan priests of Lithuanian descent will always remember Monsignor Francis Juras as their professor in St. John's Seminary, where he came every week in the 1940's to conduct Lithuanian classes for the young levites.

Treasuring the valuable writings of the old masters of the Lithuanian language, Monsignor Juras established the Lithuanian Cultural Institute and the Central Library and the Archives of which he is the present director.

Monsignor Francis Juras has given much of his time and talents in the furtherance of the Lithuanian Catholic Press. His literary and

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financial contributions to this cause have been great. He has composed and written many literary articles, including prayer books and pamphlets of a religious theme. He has likewise financed the reprinting of the New Testament, The Following of Christ, The Lives of the Saints and many other books of a religious nature. He has truly merited the title "Champion of the Lithuanian Catholic Press."

It is here at St. Francis parish that Monsignor Francis M. Juras has spent thirty eight years of his priesthood administering to the spiritual needs of his people. From the day he finished the interior of the new Church (built 40 years ago) until now, his first concern has always been to help us grow — to know, love and serve God. That is why the pastor has always invited priests to speak in Lithuanian and English, and to conduct missions in both languages to reach the old and the young. The beautiful Gothic style Church of St. Francis has been the center of worship for many in greater Lawrence. How many times have we heard from visitors and those just stopping in for a visit with God in Church — "I love that beautiful little Church."

In recognition of the many priestly labors and zeal for souls, Pope Pius XII elevated Father Francis Michael Juras to the rank of Papal Chamberlain with the title of Very Reverend Monsignor on March 22, 1951.

His Eminence Richard Cardinal Cushing once again bestowed greater honors upon Very Reverend Monsignor Juras August 7, 1959 when Pope John XXIII conferred upon him the rank of Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor.

We wish our beloved pastor good health and many blessings. We pray that God keep him. May we live to be with him on his golden jubilee and see the fruition of the projects he has planned — to meet the needs of our expanding parish, ever mindful of our basic need to know, love and serve God.

Rev. Albin F. Janiunas

✠

MENU

Fruit Cocktail

Celery — Olives — Pickles

Roast Turkey — Gravy Dressing

Mashed Potatoes — Green Peas

Mixed Green Salad — French Dressing

Banana Fritters — Sauce

Assorted Dinner Rolls — Butter

Vanila Ice Cream and Sauce

Coffee — Cream — Sugar

✤ ✤ ✤ ✤ ✤ ✤ ✤ ✤ ✤ ✤

Gratuities have been taken care of by the committee

TESTIMONIAL BANQUET

in honor of

Right Reverend Monsignor Francis M. Juras,

Pastor of Saint Francis Church, Lawrence

June 17, 1962

Saint Mary's Auditorium, Lawrence

PROGRAM

General Chairman — Peter Jaskal

Opening Prayer — Reverend John Svagzdys

Word of Welcome — Reverend Simeon Saulenas

Toastmaster — Edward Billa

St. Francis Parish School Children — Sisters of Jesus Crucified

Greetings

Introduction of Honored Guests

Principal Speaker — Right Reverend Monsignor John Balkunas

Jubilarian — Right Reverend Monsignor Francis M. Juras

Closing Prayer — Right Reverend Monsignor Francis Virmauskis

TESTIMONIAL BANQUET

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Reverend Albin F. Janiunas

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